

SustiNet Health Partnership Board of Directors

Co-Chairs
Nancy Wyman
State Comptroller

Kevin Lembo
State Healthcare Advocate



Post Office Box 1543
Hartford, CT 06144-1543
www.ct.gov/SustiNet

Phone: 866.466.4446

Facsimile: 860.297.3992

E-Mail: SustiNet@ct.gov

Board of Directors Retreat Meeting December 2, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Board Attendees: Nancy Wyman, Comptroller, Co-chair; Kevin Lembo, State Healthcare Advocate, Co-chair; Ellen Andrews; Margaret Flinter; Bruce Gould; Paul Grady; Bonita Grubbs; Norma Gyle; Nancy Heaton; Alex Hutchinson; Debra Korta; Estela Lopez; Sal Luciano; Joseph McDonagh; Andy Salner; Marie Smith; Marie Spivey; Todd Staub; Cristine Vogel; Robert Zavoiski; 41 guests

Office of the Healthcare Advocate: Vicki Veltri; Africka Hinds-Ayala

Office of the Comptroller: David Krause

SustiNet Consultants: Linda Green; Katharine London; Anya Rader Wallack; Stan Dorn

Absent: Michael Critelli; Jeannette DeJesus; Doreen Del Bianco; David Henderson; Jeffrey Kramer; Jamie Mooney; Lucy Nolan; Rafael Perez-Escamilla; Marlene Schwartz; Tory Westbrook

Kevin Lembo opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees. Minutes from the November 18, 2010 meeting were approved with no changes.

Anya Rader Wallack gave a presentation that included a summary of Board member input on core SustiNet design choices and costs and coverage estimates. To access Anya's presentation, [click here](#). The presentation included areas of agreement and disagreement voiced by Board members. Differences were less ideological than practical. There is agreement that the core populations should be in HUSKY. Nancy Wyman raised questions on a new quasi public agency, and how it would be set up or funded. Paul Grady raised a concern regarding state action that would be needed in order to do this.

Stan Dorn summarized a sample policy approach. To access this summary, [click here](#). He said federal law requires eligibility to be raised to 138% of the federal poverty level (FPL). Sal Luciano asked if estimates given in the presentation included multiplier effects. Stan replied that this microsimulation model did not include multiplier effects. Anya said that with the microsimulation it is necessary to use assumptions regarding the elasticity of demand. Stan added that the model only looked at cost savings within SustiNet itself, not including spill over effects. Anya said there may be a need to consider the financial effects more thoroughly after implementation. Cristine Vogel explained in detail how states will be responsible for expansion.

Stan explained the Basic Health plan in detail. According to federal law, the state can take anyone under 200% of FPL out of the exchange and put them into Basic Health (HUSKY adults between 133% to 200% of FPL plus the State Medical Assistance for Non-Citizens population at less than 133% of FPL). The

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Bruce Gould • Paul Grady • Bonita Grubbs • Norma Gyle • Jeffrey Kramer
Estela Lopez • Sal Luciano • Joseph McDonagh • Jamie Mooney

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federal government will give states a 95% match, contract with private plans, and provide consumers with a Basic Health plan wherein they can't receive less than minimum essential benefits and can't pay more than they would pay if they were in the exchange. Federal law sets the floor, not the ceiling. Nancy said there would be less coverage for SustiNet enrollees in Basic Health. Stan said that the Basic Health plan could be identical to the current HUSKY plan. He added that Basic Health is an attempt to shed costs while providing individuals with affordable coverage. Basic Health pays much higher than what CT could pay in HUSKY, however it would be paying higher reimbursement levels at commercial levels. Stan said it is mandated that in 2020 reimbursement will decrease to 90%; this shouldn't change unless the law is changed.

Regarding areas of agreement, Norma Gyle suggested incentivizing patient centered medical homes (PCMHs) while others preferred incentivizing primary care. Cristine said SustiNet should require the state to remove burdens to primary care and PCMH. Margaret Flinter added that the federal government has removed fees for the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) for primary care. Todd Staub suggested using incentives for practices to become PCMHs. Bruce Gould recommended phasing in PCMHs and eventually having a competitive public plan. Nancy said that the Comptroller's Office is currently working on a prescription savings plan between state employees and the Department of Social Services. Stan added that the federal floor with HUSKY up to 200% FPL will be funded by the feds to include dental.

Bonita Grubbs said that the vision of SustiNet has been agreed upon and the Board will need to consider the practical aspects of moving forward. Anya gave a short presentation on outstanding questions regarding governance and administration. To access this presentation, [click here](#).

There was discussion about funding for a SustiNet authority. Cristine said carriers will need to file for the exchange by 7/1/2013 for all to be enrolled in insurance by 1/1/2014. A suggestion was made to have SustiNet be part of an agency in its initial stages, and then have it evolve into a separate authority with accountability. Nancy said the law exists for not-for-profits to enter the state employee/retiree plans, but this is difficult to do because it's very costly. Cristine expressed concern about a state agency model because of a lack of appropriations. Kevin said MA has a public/private board with startup funds through percentage premiums and state employees doing the work. The startup cost was \$15 million for system development, administration and marketing research. Cristine mentioned that there are federal funds available to implement the exchange. She suggested collaborating with other New England states to parallel their efforts. Todd added that the Board must be a strong authority that can maintain its independence and make tough decisions, being resistant to outside pressures. Members agreed with Stan's direction, but would like something interim within a state agency with a strong board guiding the effort.

Some of this meeting's discussion spilled over into the December 15, 2010 meeting and can be found in the minutes for that meeting.

Announcements:

There will be two public briefings held on SustiNet:
12/6/10 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm in New Haven
12/7/10 from 9:00 am – noon in Hartford.

There will be a legislative briefing
12/16/10 from 9:00 am – noon at the Legislative Office Building – Room 2C

Meeting was adjourned.

Next regular meeting will be held on 12/15/10 from 9:00 am – noon in LOB room 1E.